

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Rural District of Norman Cross,

IN THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF
HUNTINGDON,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1903,

BY

JOHN A. ROBERTSON. M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*Presented to the Rural District Council at their
Meeting held on the 13th of February, 1904.*

PETERBOROUGH :

GEO. C. CASTER, PRINTER, MARKET PLACE.

1904.

TO
THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
NORMAN CROSS.

GENTLEMEN,

My Report for the year 1903 I now submit to your Council.

The chief feature of this year has been the very great rainfall, with its concomitant low temperature, and its sudden and oftentimes extreme meteorological changes. Contrary to what you would have expected, the health of the country generally has been satisfactory. Infectious Diseases have been less prevalent, probably due to the unusual flushing out of foul drains, cesspools, &c., by the heavy rainfalls. The continued dampness of atmosphere, and sudden changes of temperature, together with want of sunshine, although evidently adverse to the development of microbes and other disease engendering organisms, were very trying to the health of the old and infirm. Probably this was the cause of the high mortality in persons over 65 years of age. These deaths were 50, seventeen more than last year.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 134, being 21 more than last year.

It is satisfactory, however, to know that of these, 25 were due to premature birth and 50 to old age (over 65 years). You will also observe that 13 children died from Whooping Cough this year, whereas there was no death from this cause in 1902. Whooping Cough is a very serious disease in children under 5 years of age, and this high mortality is a strong argument in favour of placing this disease among those that are notifiable.

These deaths from old age	...	...	50
Premature Birth	...	...	25
And Whooping Cough	...	...	13
			<hr/>
			88

amount to nearly two-thirds of the total.

It is gratifying that there is a considerable reduction from last year of deaths from 5 to 65 years. Last year (1902) 35 died—this year 29.

It is worthy of remark that no person under 5 died from notifiable disease.

Death Rate (see Table I.)

Total deaths 134. Estimated population, 11,000, = 12·18 per 1,000. Census (1901), 10,164, = 13·18 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.—Under the age of 1 year 40 died, being 117·9 per 1,000 of the births. Under the age of 5 years 55 died.

Causes of death were :—

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	7
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth		...	...	...	25
Nervous Disease		...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough		...	...	...	13
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	6
				<hr/>	
Total	...	...	...	...	55

Birth Rate (see Table I.)

Total births 339, = 30.8 per 1,000 of estimated population (11,000).

TABLE II. shews :—

1.	Population.			
2.	Births Registered	...	...	339
3.	Deaths at all ages	...	...	134
4.	„ under 1 year	...	...	40

Population—

Fletton Sub-District	...	...	6,000
Yaxley	,,	...	3,000
Stilton	,,	...	2,000
			<hr/>
			11,000

Births—

Fletton Sub-District	...	...	198
Yaxley	,,	...	102
Stilton	,,	...	39
			<hr/>
			339

Deaths—

Fletton Sub-District	...	...	64
Yaxley ,,	...	...	42
Stilton ,,	...	...	28
			<hr/>
			134
			<hr/>

Deaths under 1 year—

Fletton Sub-District	...	...	20
Yaxley ,,	...	...	17
Stilton ,,	...	...	3
			<hr/>
			40
			<hr/>

TABLE III.

Refers to Notifiable Infectious Diseases. The total number was 59, made up as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	17
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	8
Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	29
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	2
					<hr/>
					59
					<hr/>

Localities of Outbreak.

Fletton Sub-District 36.	{	Woodstone	...	19
		Fletton	...	8
		Stanground	...	6
		Alwalton	...	1
		Orton Longueville		2
Yaxley Sub-District 15.	{	Yaxley	...	2
		Farcet	...	13

Stilton Sub-District	{ Stilton	...	...	1
8.	{ Holme	...	...	7
				<hr/> 59

TABLE IV.

This Table refers to the causes of and ages at death.
Also to deaths in localities at all ages.

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	13
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Other Sceptic Diseases	...	...	..		1
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	8
Other Tubercular Diseases			...	...	2
Cancer (Malignant Disease)			...	...	10
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	14
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	25
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	10
Suicides	...	...	...	...	1
Nervous Disease	...	...	...	...	16
Senile Decay	...	...	...	...	13
All other Causes	...	...	...	...	8
					<hr/> 134

Ages at Death—

Deaths occurring under 1 year	...	...	40
„ „ from 1 to 5 years	...	15	
„ „ „ 5 to 15 „	...	4	
„ „ „ 15 to 25 „	...	1	
„ „ „ 25 to 65 „	...	24	
„ „ „ 65 years onwards		50	
			<hr/> 134

Localities—

Fletton Sub-District	...	...	...	64
Yaxley	„	...	...	42
Stilton	„	...	...	28
				<hr/>
				134
				<hr/>

MEANS OF PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The same as before.

The Schools in Farcet, Haddon, and Yaxley were closed for a few weeks to prevent Whooping Cough from increasing. It will be observed from the Report of the Sanitary Inspector that the usual means of disinfection have been carefully carried out, and that new Bacteria beds have been constructed at Holme. Two wells at Farcet had to be closed to prevent Enteric Fever from spreading (see Report which is attached).

WATER SUPPLY.

In Fletton Sub-District the supply of water is quite satisfactory. The Braceborough water now supplies all but the out-lying villages of Orton Waterville, Alwalton, Waternewton, and Chesterton. These are supplied by wells with fairly good water, and there has been an ample supply of rain water during the year.

In Folksworth, the pond supplying the village has been cleaned out, deepened, and enlarged. This is a decided and much needed improvement. The outbreak of Enteric Fever in Farcet necessitated the shutting up

of two of the wells. Owing to the clay subsoil, the wells are surface ones, and therefore unsatisfactory. It is to be hoped that a better supply may be obtained in the near future.

In the other localities there is no change. The rainfall was so great that all wells and ponds were overflowing.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Much the same as last year.

A further number of houses (112) have been connected with the sewers in the Parishes of Woodstone, Fletton, and Stanground. These connections, combined with the abnormally wet weather, have of necessity caused a considerable amount of interference with the roads, and unpleasantness to pedestrians.

Further connections are being completed, and the sooner the whole of the houses are connected the better.

The pail system, employed in the Parish of Fletton, is not only an unpleasant, but also an expensive mode of dealing with the sewage, and the expense of connecting the whole of the houses with the main sewer would soon be saved by the reduction of the heavy yearly sum incurred in carrying out this pail system.

A new system of Sewage is now being carried out in the village of Holme. There is little change in this direction in other localities. The exit of the main sewer in Farcet is above the level of the lode into which it flows, and still is really a nuisance which ought to be remedied.

A glance at the Sanitary Inspector's Report will at once show that every attention has been given during the year to the question of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

An inspection of your Sanitary Inspector's Report will show that this is being efficiently dealt with.

POLLUTION OF STREAMS AND WATERCOURSES.

The repeated floods have thoroughly flushed out the various lodes and streams in your District ; in other respects they remain as formally.

HOUSE SANITATION.

Although house to house inspection has not been carried out to the very letter in the performance of my other duties, a considerable number have been examined.

I may also state that the other medical men working in the District kindly keep me informed as to the existence of nuisances, over-crowding, infectious diseases other than Notifiable, and other dangers to public health. I also receive considerable help in this direction from Members of your Board, as well as from the public generally. The exceptionally wet year did not conduce towards clean fire sides. The majority of the workmen are brick makers and agricultural labourers. It may be easily understood that there was more clay than gold that found its way to their homes. "There are black

sheep in every flock," and your District is no exception to this rule. There are houses and back premises near houses that are decidedly objectionable, but I can safely say that the great majority of the houses are clean, tidy, and comfortable.

In the Parishes of Yaxley, Farcet, Stanground, Fletton, and Woodstone, a large number of new houses have been and are being constructed. These are tangible indications of the increasing prosperity and population of your District. The house erecting, however, implies carting of building materials. This extra traffic, in such a wet year, has cut up many side roads and severely tested the main roads in these Parishes.

People living near these side roads could not possibly keep their houses or their children as clean and tidy as they desired. I refer to such side roads as Ayres' Row in Stanground, Rowe's Lane in Woodstone, Princes Road and the Love Lane part of St. Margaret's Road in Fletton.

These, and others of a like nature, were simply intolerable before they were taken over by your Board. Rowe's Lane and Ayres' Row are now in good order, and the others, I understand, are now being attended to.

CONCLUSION.

I now conclude my Report for a year that will be known in history as one which has taken the record for rainfall for about 100 years, a year cheerless from lack

of sunshine, wretched from mud and puddle, and disastrous to agriculturalists, from the landlord to the plough boy, as well as to all out-door workers. Although the agriculturalists in your District may not have suffered so severely as in other parts of the kingdom, the District generally has seriously felt the blow, from the fact that the majority of the population are either brick makers or depending on brickmaking.

In such a year of adverse circumstances, it is pleasing to find the following redeeming features :—

1st. The Birth Rate is a record one, viz., 339, being 10 more than the next best in 1900.

2nd. The Death Rate, although not a record, is lower than in 1901, 1899, 1897, when the population was considerably less.

3rd. The population of the whole District has considerably increased, particularly in Fletton, Farcet, and Yaxley.

It must be gratifying to your Council, as well as to the ratepayers, to find the Death Rate of Fletton Sub-District again conspicuously less than the other Sub-Districts, viz. :—

Fletton Sub-District	=	10·6	per 1,000.
Yaxley	,,	14	,,
Stilton	,,	14	,,

It is obvious that this great reduction in the Death Rate is due to the beneficial influence of the new Sewerage Works.

Results so pointed and satisfactory should encourage the consideration and early establishment of a similar Sewerage system in the other divisions of your District.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN A. ROBERTSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Woodstone, Peterborough,

13th February, 1904.



TABLE I.
Name of District—NORMAN CROSS RURAL.
For Whole District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*
1898	10,000	286	28.6	35	122.3	111	11.1	111	11.1
1899	11,000	312	28.3	48	153.5	156	14.2	156	14.2
1900	11,000	329	29.9	40	121.5	126	11.5	126	11.5
1901	10,164	320	31.4	47	146.8	135	13.2	135	13.2
1902	10,164	316	31.09	35	110.7	113	11.1	113	11.1
Averages for years 1898–1901 }	10,582	319.25	30.17	42.5	133.1	132.5	12.5	132.5	12.5
1903	11,000	339	30.8	40	117.9	134	12.18	134	12.18

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 32,491.

Total population at all ages, 10,164.

No. of Inhabited Houses, 2,279.

Average number of persons per house, 4.4.

TABLE II.
Name of District—NORMAN CROSS RURAL.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	FLETTON.				YAXLEY.				STILTON.			
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1902	5,564	181	59	19	2,755	88	28	8	1,845	47	26	8
1903	6,000	198	64	20	3,000	102	42	17	2,000	39	28	3

TABLE III.

NORMAN CROSS RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	FLETON.	YAXLEY.	STILTON.
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup...	17	14	3	...
Erysipelas	8	6	...	2
Scarlet Fever.....	29	14	9	6
Enteric Fever	3	...	3	...
Puerperal Fever	2	2	...	...
TOTALS	59	36	15	8

TABLE IV.

Name of District—NORMAN CROSS RURAL.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1903.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN ALL LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).		
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 & under 5.	5 & under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 65.	65 & upwards.	FLETON.	YAXLEY.	STILTON.
Whooping Cough	13	6	7	...	...	...	...	6	6	1
Enteritis	6	3	3	...	...	...	...	2	4	...
Enteric	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...
Phthisis	8	...	1	...	1	4	2	5	3	...
Other Sceptic Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	...	...	...	...	5	5	4	3	3
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Bronchitis	14	3	4	...	...	3	4	5	3	6
Pneumonia	3	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	1
Diarrhœa	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Premature Birth.....	25	25	...	...	...	...	...	13	9	3
Heart Diseases	10	...	...	...	...	1	9	7	2	1
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Nervous Diseases	16	1	...	...	...	3	12	10	2	4
Senile Decay	13	...	...	...	...	...	13	4	3	6
All other Causes.....	8	...	...	2	...	3	3	1	4	3
ALL CAUSES	134	40	15	4	1	24	50	64	42	28

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

OLD FLETTON,

FEBRUARY, 1904.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to hand you a summary of the work done by me in your District between February 28th, 1903, and February 10th, 1904.

Notices served under Public Health Act	94
Nuisances from accumulations of manure	2
Nuisances from offensive privies, &c.....	37
Nuisances from offensive drains, &c.	25
Nuisances from offensive animals	1
Nuisances from overcrowding.....	2
Public Health Water Act	7
Other Nuisances	20

The number of houses connected to the sewers in the Parishes of Fletton, Stanground, and Woodstone, during the above period, was 112.

The number of notices served on owners to connect was 40.

The whole of the sewers in these Parishes are working satisfactory.

The number of plans deposited under the bye-laws was 56.

The number of closet pans emptied in the Parish of Fletton was 9,120, at a cost of £95.

The cost of removing ashes in this Parish was £38 9s. 6d.

Fifty-three cases of infectious disease have been notified to me by the Medical Officer of Health, and have received my attention.

New bacteria beds have been constructed at Holme, and the nuisance in Holme Lode abated.

A new sewer is also in course of construction in this Village.

The water supply of Farcet has also been dealt with, as the outcome of three cases of Typhoid Fever.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. WHITTAKER.